

Agency 303

Department of Health

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	1,608.8	180,149	962,270	1,142,419
Total Maintenance Level	1,605.1	187,720	969,650	1,157,370
Difference	(3.7)	7,571	7,380	14,951
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(0.2)%	4.2%	0.8%	1.3%
Performance Changes				
Reduce HIV Prevention and Client Services	(8.0)	(1,780)		(1,780)
Eliminate Maternity Support Services	(5.0)	(600)		(600)
Reduce Environmental Health Service	(9.4)	(2,364)		(2,364)
Reduce Maternal and Children Health	(8.2)	(5,606)		(5,606)
Reduce Health Facility Quality Assurance	(3.0)	(556)		(556)
Reduce Health Services	(8.6)	(2,190)		(2,190)
Reduce Administration	(5.7)	(1,898)		(1,898)
Eliminate State Funding for Family Planning Grants		(9,000)		(9,000)
Reduce Blue Ribbon Public Health Payment		(7,500)		(7,500)
Reduce Tobacco Cessation		4,000	(47,594)	(43,594)
Natural Resource Consolidation #	.6	(39)	62	23
Eliminate Senior Falls Prevention	(1.0)	(174)		(174)
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(824)	(3,184)	(4,008)
State Data Center Rate Increase		513	392	905
Subtotal	(48.3)	(28,018)	(50,324)	(78,342)
Total Proposed Budget	1,556.8	159,702	919,326	1,079,028
Difference	(52.0)	(20,447)	(42,944)	(63,391)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(3.2)%	(11.4)%	(4.5)%	(5.5)%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Department of Health Administration	193.5	13,339	38,523	51,862
Chronic Disease Prevention	87.7	11,150	29,562	40,712
Drinking Water Protection	144.7	5,335	33,504	38,839
Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response	59.9	43	36,799	36,842
Community Environmental Health	121.8	6,931	20,946	27,877
Shellfish and Food Safety	30.8	4,814	1,786	6,600
Strengthening the Public Health Network	37.4	30,192	5,168	35,360
Family and Child Health and Safety	161.6	21,323	515,867	537,190
Public Health Laboratory	89.8	9,024	18,759	27,783
State Board of Health	8.8	1,404	301	1,705
Access to Quality Healthcare Services	28.1	10,083	14,341	24,424
Patient and Consumer Safety	452.4	1,667	114,435	116,102
Prevent and Respond to the Transmission of Communicable and Infectious Disease	131.1	44,290	85,198	129,488

HUMAN SERVICES - OTHER

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
Developmental Disabilities Council and Endowment	9.5	107	4,137	4,244
Total Proposed Budget	1,556.8	159,702	919,326	1,079,028

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Reduce HIV Prevention and Client Services

The Department of Health (DOH) will reduce direct support for HIV prevention and client care services by 4.5 percent.

Eliminate Maternity Support Services

Administrative activities in the Department of Health which support the Maternity Support Services program in the Medicaid Purchasing Administration (MPA) are eliminated. The oversight activities will be conducted by the MPA.

Reduce Environmental Health Service

Multiple reductions will be made to administrative activities that support local governments in environmental health efforts. Reductions include incentive grants for on-site sewage disposal; outreach and compliance efforts for water systems; and education and prevention activities for zoonotic diseases, water recreation, chemical and pesticide hazards, school environmental health, and food safety.

Reduce Maternal and Children Health

Multiple reductions will be made in the Maternal and Children's Health functions, including leveraging additional federal Women, Infant, and Children funds for local contracts; eliminating support for the Community Health Leadership forum; and reducing administrative/technical support.

Reduce Health Facility Quality Assurance

Multiple reductions will be made to the health facility quality assurance functions, including the eliminating group care facility inspections, increasing fees for in-home care agency inspections to offset state subsidies, maximizing Model Toxics Account funding, and reducing staff for temporary housing inspections. (General Fund-State, General-Fund Private/Local)

Reduce Health Services

Multiple reductions will be made to the administrative capacity of DOH to support public health efforts. Reductions are made to several activities, including the tracking of non-infectious diseases; elimination of the Health Declarations registry; reduced expenditures in the Public Health Laboratory; reduced capacity in monitoring for health care acquired infections; reduced youth suicide prevention efforts, and reduced technical support for adverse events tracking.

Reduce Administration

Reductions are made to reflect central agency administrative and support services allocation changes related to programmatic reductions in the Department. In addition, the Health Systems Quality Assurance Division will take administrative reductions, and funding for health impact reviews is eliminated.

Eliminate State Funding for Family Planning Grants

In 2007, General Fund-State resources were provided to replace family planning funding that was disallowed by the state's Medicaid family planning program. State funding for these grants is eliminated. With remaining federal grants, the Department of Health is directed to maintain geographically accessible, cost-effective family planning services in rural areas of the state with remaining family planning resources.

Reduce Blue Ribbon Public Health Payment

The additional public health grants funded in 2008 as a result of the omnibus Blue Ribbon Commission Act are reduced by 38 percent.

Reduce Tobacco Cessation

Tobacco cessation programs within the Department are reduced. Remaining programs, including the Quit-Line and outreach and awareness campaigns, are funded through the state general fund. (General Fund-State, Tobacco Prevention and Control Account)

Natural Resource Consolidation #

Pursuant to executive request legislation consolidating natural resource agencies, funding and FTE staff are increased to reflect transfer of the Department of Ecology's low-level radioactive waste regulatory program to the Department of Health. In addition, the drinking water reclamation program is transferred from DOH to Ecology. Both transfers are effective July 1, 2012. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local, Site Closure Account)

Eliminate Senior Falls Prevention

The Senior Falls Prevention program is eliminated.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Department of Health Administration

Department of Health administration manages the day-to-day operations and leadership functions of the agency. Staff in this area provide executive leadership, policy development and review, financial services, computer and information technology services, personnel services, communications, and safety and emergency management support for the agency's programs.

Chronic Disease Prevention

Prevention is the cornerstone of public health. The Department of Health works through many channels to provide public health promotion resources, materials, and evidence-based strategies to educate and inform the public on how to be healthy and prevent disease. The Department provides technical assistance in community planning with the goal of making the healthy choice the easy choice. Activities include tobacco prevention and control; promotion of regular physical activity and proper nutrition; chronic disease prevention and disease management strategies; cancer prevention and control; and cardiovascular disease prevention and control.

Drinking Water Protection

The Drinking Water program works with the State Board of Health, local water systems, and communities to make sure that drinking water is safe and reliable. Activities include monitoring water quality tests; conducting inspections of water systems; enforcing regulations and safety measures; assisting water systems during planning, design, and construction of new facilities and upgrades; training and certifying water system operators; and providing funding for water system improvements.

HUMAN SERVICES - OTHER

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

Public health agencies play a key role in making sure our communities are prepared for emergencies. The Department of Health works with local health departments, hospitals, emergency managers, and others to help prepare our state for everything from natural disasters to bioterrorism threats. The Department coordinates the development of state, regional, and local public health emergency response plans as part of this work. The agency also works with emergency responders and others to provide training and exercises on topics such as mass vaccination and risk communication. The Department is improving preparedness in Washington State through a variety of activities including facilitating local, regional, state, and tribal partnerships, public education campaigns and activities, and building systems to quickly share health information.

Community Environmental Health

The Department of Health works with public health partners and businesses to protect the community from hazards in the environment by educating the public about how to make and keep their environment safe and healthy; developing environmental public health standards for septic systems and swimming pools; helping the public prevent disease spread by animals; monitoring sources of radiation, radioactive materials, and radioactive waste; providing resources to clean areas that have been contaminated by dangerous materials; monitoring and preventing pesticide-related illness; and helping communities minimize or eliminate exposure to contaminants in the environment.

Shellfish and Food Safety

The Department of Health helps make sure that food served in restaurants and other businesses is safe to eat. The Department ensures that shellfish harvested from Washington waters is also safe to eat. Activities include monitoring local waters and beaches where shellfish grow for pollution and harmful toxins; developing public health standards for the safe sale and service of food; educating food service workers and the public on proper food safety; inspecting commercial shellfish companies; and investigating and controlling outbreaks of foodborne illnesses.

Strengthening the Public Health Network

Washington's governmental public health system is decentralized. It relies heavily on the day-to-day work of 35 local public health jurisdictions (county and multi-county agencies) plus additional partners including emergency response teams, trauma response units, hospitals, community clinics, and tribal health services. The Department of Health maintains an active partnership and continuous communication with a range of public health decision-makers at all levels - local, state, and federal - because coordinated response is essential, whether responding to widespread disease threats, negotiating policy and budget objectives for health improvement, or assuring that information can flow across county lines or to other health partners. The Department works to strengthen its partnerships with public health, particularly agencies at the community level.

Activities include providing resources for emergency medical and trauma services; promoting access to healthcare in rural communities; increasing electronic communications between the Department, local health partners, hospitals, and emergency responders; coordinating response to emerging health issues with federal, state, and local partners; offering certified copies of birth, death, divorce, and marriage records to the public; building and supporting information networks to provide data that helps people make good decisions about public health; and maintaining a strong relationship between state and local public health jurisdictions in order to share information and respond quickly to public health threats.

Family and Child Health and Safety

The Department of Health promotes healthy behaviors and the use of preventive health services through a variety of activities including facilitating local, regional, state, and tribal partnerships, public education campaigns and activities, and building systems to quickly share health information. The agency promotes regular health checkups for everyone and prenatal care and education for parents. Some of the agency's most important work is to distribute vaccines for children and investigate and control vaccine-preventable disease. The agency provides health promotion materials and consultation on the best strategies; provides nutrition and health education for pregnant women; and helps thousands of state residents by providing healthy food through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. The Department of Health supports family planning/reproductive health services for women, men, and teens; linking children and families to health services; and providing programs to prevent injuries.

Public Health Laboratory

The Department of Health's Public Health Laboratories serve the people of our state by providing accurate and timely laboratory results. The laboratories' around-the-clock, cutting-edge services are used by local health agencies, Department of Health programs, and the state's healthcare and emergency response system. The laboratories provide a broad range of tests including those that look for communicable disease, shellfish poisoning, foodborne illnesses, health issues in newborn babies, and contamination of air, water, and food that may endanger human health.

State Board of Health

The State Board of Health is housed within the Department of Health, yet works independently advising the state on health policy and adopting rules that guide many public health functions. It works with input from public health partners, local government, consumers, and the public. Key areas of rule-making include vital records; disease monitoring, reporting, and control; childhood health screenings; school immunizations; and food and drinking water safety.

Access to Quality Healthcare Services

All people in Washington State deserve to have access to competent and safe, quality healthcare. This work includes specialized EMS and trauma care, Indian health planning, and health professional shortage area designations. The Department's programs work to build and maintain systems so that people in all parts of the state can access healthcare. This work includes specialized EMS and trauma care, Indian health planning, and health professional shortage area designations. The Department of Health assists communities to recruit and retain physicians, dentists, and nurses in rural and underserved parts of the state.

Patient and Consumer Safety

Patient and consumer safety are among the Department of Health's top priorities. Each year the Department receives about 7,500 complaints against healthcare providers and about 800 complaints against healthcare facilities. The Department works to ensure that healthcare providers and facilities comply with health, safety, and professional standards through licensing, investigation, and disciplinary activities. The Department of Health provides information to healthcare facilities, healthcare professionals, and consumers that allows them to make informed decisions.

Prevent and Respond to the Transmission of Communicable and Infectious Disease

The Department of Health works with many partners to protect people from communicable and infectious disease, including HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis, and tuberculosis. The agency educates the public on ways to stay healthy and avoid contracting and spreading disease. It monitors and tracks health trends as well as the rate and frequency of infectious disease. State health programs pay for drugs and limited medical care for HIV clients and work with local health agencies to investigate disease outbreaks. The Department also works to prevent and reduce the effects of communicable disease.

HUMAN SERVICES - OTHER

Developmental Disabilities Council and Endowment

Development Disabilities Council:

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council is mandated by federal law, public law 106-402. The purpose of the Council is to plan, advocate for, and develop comprehensive services/supports for individuals with developmental disabilities so that they can live independent productive, and integrated lives in local communities throughout the state. The Council is funded with federal funds provided through P.L. 106-402.

Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund Governing Board:

The Governing Board is established in RCW 43.330.210. The purpose of the Governing Board is to design and establish all policies to administer the Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund program. The Governing Board and the operation of the Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund is paid by fees generated by the program.